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Attorney Docket No. 0553-0504

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Daisuke KUMAI et al

Serial No.: Not Assigned

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Name: Carmelo Santoro
(typed or printed)Signature INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)(i) copies of cited US patent and US patent application publications are not submitted herewith. Copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature documents are enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

The family of JP 10-270171 cited herein includes:

EP Patent No. 0 855 848 A2

US Patent No. 6,013,384

The family of JP 11-251067 cited herein includes:

EP Patent No. 0 948 063 A2

US Patent No. 6,423,429 B2

The family of JP 2002-015873 cited herein includes:

US Patent No. 6,483,236 B1

EP Patent No. 1 160 891 A2

The family of JP 2003-229278 cited herein includes:

US Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0111666 A1

The family of JP 2003-272860 cited herein includes:

EP Patent No. 1 351 558 A1

US Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0189401 A1

The family of JP 2005-166637 cited herein includes:

EP Patent No. 1 530 245 A2

US Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0098207 A1

No inference should be drawn that the attached list sets forth a comprehensive investigation of the prior art, that any or all are pertinent to the invention, or that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent

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application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

A first office action, notice of allowance or issue fee notification has not been received in this case, so Applicant does not believe that a fee is due. However, if any such fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark J. Murphy
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